



STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

October 26, 2006

Bret Martine
Studio JAED
20 E. Division Street
Dover, DE 19901

RE: PLUS review – PLUS 2006-09-12; Milford School District – Walnut Street

Dear Mr. Martine:

Thank you for meeting with State agency planners on October 3, 2006 to discuss the feasibility of a school site on a portion of the 38 acre parcel which now houses the Milford High School on Walnut Street in Milford.

Please note that changes to the plan, other than those suggested in this letter, could result in additional comments from the State. Additionally, these comments reflect only issues that are the responsibility of the agencies represented at the meeting. The developers will also need to comply with any Federal, State and local regulations regarding this property. We also note that as the City of Milford is the governing authority over this land, the developers will need to comply with any and all regulations/restrictions set forth by the City.

The following are a complete list of comments received by State agencies:

Office of State Planning Coordination – Contact: David Edgell 739-3090

This proposed school site is located in Investment Level 1 according to the *Strategies for State Policies and Spending*. Investment Level 1 reflects areas that are already developed in an urban or suburban fashion, where infrastructure is existing or readily available, and where future redevelopment or infill projects are expected and encouraged by State

policy. This site is also located within the City of Milford. Public facilities, such as schools, are desirable in Investment Level 1 areas where they are located near infrastructure, public services, and the populations they serve. The State supports this location for new school construction.

It is noted that although the application only identified the existing high school parcel (MD16-174.14-01-29). At the PLUS meeting we discussed the district's plans to add some additional acreage to the site. Specifically, the district indicated that it intends to acquire a parcel used as a BMX track (parcel # MD16-174.00-02-36.01) and some additional acreage north of the site (parcel # MD16-174.14-01-51.01). The State supports the acquisition of these parcels and the consolidation of them into this school site to enable new school construction.

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs – Contact: Alice Guerrant 739-5685

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs are in favor of the school district using this area for a new school. The only known historic property here was the Nutter Smokehouse, which was accidentally demolished some years ago and is apparently covered over in the west yard of the school. Beers Atlas of 1868 shows only the D. I Godwin House on Walnut St. and the J. Deans House on NE Tenth St, possibly within the school's grounds. Nothing shows up in the expansion area to the north of the present school. There are some areas of potential for prehistoric-period archaeological sites near Rt. 1, but in general the parcel is too far from water for a really high potential here.

There may be a small family cemetery associated with the Godwin House, and the school district may want to avoid any construction in the southwest corner of the current school parcel. That appears to be the only undisturbed area remaining where a cemetery might be found.

If the school district uses this property, the DHCA would like to look at the site plan and see if there may be areas we should check for prehistoric-period archaeological sites within the construction area.

Department of Transportation – Contact: Bill Brockenbrough 760-2109

- 1) North Walnut Street is classified as a major collector road and Northeast Tenth Street, west of Delaware Route 1, is classified as a local road. DelDOT's policy is to require dedication of sufficient land to provide a minimum right-of-way width of 40 feet from the centerline on collector roads and 30 feet from the centerline on local roads. Therefore we would require

- right-of-way dedication along the frontage to provide any additional width needed from this project.
- 2) DelDOT would also require a 15-foot wide permanent easement across the frontages of the site for a shared use path.
 - 3) Improvements on North Walnut Street would be limited to the site entrance, but that entrance would need to be reevaluated and the facilities there might need to be expanded, e.g. turning lanes might need to be lengthened.
 - 4) Depending on the site plan, improvements might be needed at the existing entrance on Northeast Tenth Street, and the site frontage on Northeast Tenth Street would need to be improved to DelDOT standards for local roads. Those standards include 11-foot lanes and 5-foot shoulders. Additionally, an overlay of the existing roadway may be necessary.
 - 1) If this site is selected, the District's site engineer should contact the project manager for Kent County, Mr. Brad Herb, regarding specific requirements for access. Mr. Herb may be reached at (302) 266-9600.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact: Kevin Coyle 739-9071

Recommendation for Feasibility

The Kent County soil survey indicates that the soil mapping units mapped on this parcel are well-drained (Sassafras and Rumford), or excessively well-drained (Evesboro) upland soils; such soils have few apparent limitations for development. Statewide Wetland Mapping (SWMP) maps indicate no mapped wetlands on this parcel, further substantiating the drainage character of this parcel.

This parcel is located within the designated growth zone where the State fully supports development and has relatively few environmental constraints. The ability to connect to a central sewage is a further plus for this parcel.

Water Supply

The project information sheets state water will be provided to the project by the City of Milford via a central water system. DNREC records indicate that the project is located within the public water service area granted to the City of Milford under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity 91-CPCN-09.

Should dewatering points be needed during any phase of construction, a dewatering well construction permit must be obtained from the Water Supply Section prior to construction of the well points. In addition, a water allocation permit will be needed if the pumping rate will exceed 50,000 gallons per day at any time during operation.

All well permit applications must be prepared and signed by licensed water well contractors, and only licensed well drillers may construct the wells. Please factor in the necessary time for processing the well permit applications into the construction schedule. Dewatering well permit applications typically take approximately four weeks to process, which allows the necessary time for technical review and advertising.

Should you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Rick Rios at 302-739-9944.

Sediment and Erosion Control/Stormwater Management

Investigation of possible discharge locations is recommended early in the design of the project. The allowable discharge may be limited based upon the discharge location. The soil types in the area are good for infiltration. Infiltration should be considered as part of the overall stormwater management design, but areas previously disturbed and/or compacted, such as the BMX track, would not be appropriate locations for an infiltration stormwater BMP.

Drainage

The Drainage Program requests that the engineer take precautions to ensure the project does not hinder any off site drainage upstream of the project or create any off site drainage problems downstream by the release of on site storm water. The Drainage Program requests that the engineer check existing ditches and pipes for function and blockages prior to the construction. Notify downstream landowners of the change in volume of water released on them.

Underground Storage Tanks

There are three inactive and one active LUST site(s) located near the proposed project:

Kent Sussex Industries, Facility # 1-000086, Project # K9108184

Warton & Bernard, Inc., Facility # 1-000026, Project # K9501011

TNT/RedStar Express, Facility # 1-000258, Project # K9105104

Perdue Poultry Processing Plant, Facility # 1-000069, Project # K9808141

No environmental impact is expected from the above inactive/active LUST site(s). However, should any underground storage tank or petroleum contaminated soil be discovered during construction, the Tank Management Branch must be notified as soon as possible. It is not anticipated that any construction specifications would need to be changed due to petroleum contamination. However, should any unanticipated contamination be encountered and PVC pipe is being utilized, it will need to be changed to ductile steel with nitrile rubber gaskets in the contaminated areas.

State Fire Marshal's Office – Contact: Duane Fox 856-5298

This Agency has no objection to the feasibility request. The information provided below shall be considered when plans are being designed.

This document is informational only, and does not constitute any type of approval from the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office. At the time of formal submittal, the applicant shall provide; completed application, fee, and three sets of plans depicting the following in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulation (DSFPR):

a. **Fire Protection Water Requirements:**

- Water distribution system capable of delivering at least 1000 gpm for 1-hour duration, at 20-psi residual pressure is required. Fire hydrants with 800 feet spacing on centers.
- Where a water distribution system is proposed for (Educational) sites, the infrastructure for fire protection water shall be provided, including the size of water mains for fire hydrants and sprinkler systems.

b. **Fire Protection Features:**

- All structures over 10,000 Sq. Ft. aggregate will require automatic sprinkler protection installed.
- Buildings greater than 10,000 sqft, 3-stories or more, over 35 feet, or classified as High Hazard, are required to meet fire lane marking requirements
- Show Fire Department Connection location (Must be within 300 feet of fire hydrant), and detail as shown in the DSFPR.
- Show Fire Lanes and Sign Detail as shown in DSFPR

Accessibility:

- All premises, which the fire department may be called upon to protect in case of fire, and which are not readily accessible from public roads, shall be provided with suitable gates and access roads, and fire lanes so that all buildings on the premises are accessible to fire apparatus. This means that the access road to the subdivision from N. Walnut Street and NE Tenth Street must be constructed so fire department apparatus may negotiate it.
- Fire department access shall be provided in such a manner so that fire apparatus will be able to locate within 100 ft. of the front door.
- Any dead end road more than 300 feet in length shall be provided with a turn-around or cul-de-sac arranged such that fire apparatus will be able to turn around by making not more than one backing maneuver. The minimum paved radius of the cul-de-sac shall be 38 feet. The dimensions of the cul-de-sac or turn-around shall be shown on the final plans. Also, please be advised that parking is prohibited in the cul-de-sac or turn around.
- The use of speed bumps or other methods of traffic speed reduction must be in accordance with Department of Transportation requirements.
- The local Fire Chief, prior to any submission to our Agency, shall approve in writing the use of gates that limit fire department access into and out of the development or property.

c. **Gas Piping and System Information**

- Provide type of fuel proposed, and show locations of bulk containers on plan.

e. **Required Notes:**

- Provide a note on the final plans submitted for review to read “ All fire lanes, fire hydrants, and fire department connections shall be marked in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations”
- Proposed Use
- Alpha or Numerical Labels for each building/unit for sites with multiple buildings/units
- Square footage of each structure (Total of all Floors)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Construction Type
- Maximum Height of Buildings (including number of stories)
- Note indicating if building is to be sprinklered
- Name of Water Provider
- Letter from Water Provider approving the system layout
- Provide Lock Box Note (as detailed in DSFPR) if Building is to be sprinklered

- Provide Road Names, even for County Roads

Preliminary meetings with fire protection specialists are encouraged prior to formal submittal. Please call for appointment. Applications and brochures can be downloaded from our website: www.delawarestatefiremarshal.com, technical services link, plan review, applications or brochures.

Department of Agriculture - Contact: Scott Blaier 698-4500

The Delaware Department of Agriculture has no objections to the proposed school site, as it is located within the City of Milford's incorporated area, and in Investment Level 1. The Department supports using existing "school owned" property for school expansion when possible.

Public Service Commission - Contact: Andrea Maucher 739-4247

Any expansion of natural gas or installation of a closed propane system must fall within Pipeline Safety guidelines. Contact: Malak Michael at (302) 739-4247.

Department of Education – Contact: John Marinucci 739-4658

1. The DOE supports locating school facilities on parcels with existing or reasonable access to civil infrastructure to include but not limited to:
 - Roads, pedestrian walkways and shared use paths
 - Waste water/sewerage and domestic water
 - Electric, and telecommunications
 - Storm water drainage and conveyance

School sites with public water and sewer utilities or access to public water and sewer utilities are recommended by DOE over sites requiring on-site facilities. Because it is within the incorporated city limits of the City of Milford, this school site appears to offer access to adequate public civil utilities.

2. The DOE supports the State Strategies for Policies and Spending. When considering school facility locations, the DOE considers proximity and access to basic support services as a high priority.

The school location under consideration appears to be within the City of Milford incorporated limits and as a result basic support service levels will reflect a commensurate level of service associated with incorporated local jurisdiction.

3. The DOE supports locating school facilities strategically within the geographic region and/or community the facility is intended to serve in order to:
 - Encourage non-student pedestrian access to the school facility in an effort to reduce vehicle miles traveled to the extent practical
 - Encourage student pedestrian access to the school facility, in order to contain the school's life-cycle operating costs associated with student transportation, as practicable
 - Create education campuses by co-locating educational facilities and services in an effort to reduce life-cycle costs as a result of the co-located schools sharing common spaces, facilities and services.

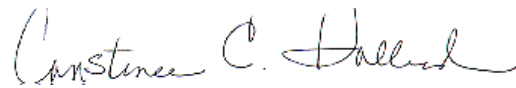
The school location under consideration appears to be strategically located geographically within the community it is intended to serve. This site will also establish an education campus providing opportunities for co-located and shared common use facilities and services.

4. As a result, the DOE supports this site as a potential school site for the Milford School District.

The comments in this letter are offered as advisory comments to help the school district determine the feasibility of this property for a school site. If the district chooses to move forward with this site, the Budget Office, the Department of Education, and the State Planning Office would need to approve this location. In addition, the site plan for the proposed school would need to be reviewed through the Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-739-3090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Constance C. Holland".

Constance C. Holland, AICP
Director

CC: City of Milford
Kent County